

UNCLASSIFIED

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Document Number: 1976BUENOS06628

Page: 1

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06628 072119Z

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 072000Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7467
INFO USUN NEW YORK 669
USMISSION GENEVA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Classification: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full ~~DECLASSIFIED~~

(☐) Classify as ☐ (☐) Extend as ☐ (☐) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 6628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PGOV, AR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY ESTABLISHES SPECIAL OFFICE FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS INQUIREIES

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED COPY OF CIRCULAR NOTE TO ALL EMBASSIES FROM FONMINISTRY WHICH REFERS TO "FACT THAT VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED AND CONTINUE TO EXPRESS THEIR PREOCCUPATION OVER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA, AS WELL AS SITUATION IN WHICH PERSONS OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES MAY FIND THEMSELVES WITHIN ITS TERRITORY." NOTE STATES THAT AUTHORITIES WISH TO COOPERATE AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE IN SOLUTION OF ANY PROBLEM RAISED BY "LEGITIMATE DISQUIET" OVER HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. THEREFORE, MINISTRY HAS ESTABLISHED "WORKING GROUP" IN OFFICE OF UNDER SECRETARY, WHICH WILL CONCENTRATE ON THIS TASK. EMBASSIES ARE ASKED TO REQUEST THEIR GOVERNMENTS IN FUTURE TO CHANNELS ALL APPROACHES AND INQUIRIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS TO THE WORKING GROUP.

3. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED DIRECTLY BY (NAVY) CAPTAIN SEISDEDOS OF THE MINISTRY, WHO HAS BEEN HANDLING SUCH MATTERS AND WITH WHOM WE HAVE HAD DEALINGS, THAT HE WILL HEAD WORKING GROUP AND WILL WELCOME INFORMAL DIRECT CALLS TO HIM ON ANY MATTER

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1976BUENOS06628

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

[REDACTED]
PAGE 02 BUENOS 06628 072119Z

OF CONCERN TO US. PRESUMABLY FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS SUCH AS
PROTEST NOTES WILL GO TO THE WORKING GROUP FOR ACTION.

4. COMMENT. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MINISTRY HAS FINALLY
RECOGNIZED THAT INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT OF PAST, IN WHICH EMBASSIES
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR
OWN NATIONALS OR OTHERS OF INTEREST TO THEM APPROACHED MINISTRY
THROUGH VARIETY OF DESK OFFICERS AND OTHER CONTACTS, NEEDED
TO BE FORMALIZED AND CHanneled TO RESPONSIBLE OFFICER. IT MAY
ALSO INDICATE THAT GOA IS BECOMING AWARE THAT IT HAS GROWING
PROBLEM WHICH WILL NOT GO AWAY IN NEAR FUTURE, AND THAT IT
HAD BEST GET ORGANIZED TO DEAL WITH IT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES,
OUR INCLINATION WILL BE TO USE FONMINISTRY CHANNEL MORE FREELY
FOR INQUIRIES ON INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CASES.
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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

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